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Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6744th meeting

Thursday, 29 March 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Musayev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Briz Gutiérrez
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Ahmad
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Yemen to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among Council members, I have been authorized to make the following statement on their behalf:

> "The Security Council welcomes the Yemeni-led peaceful transition process to a just and democratic political system. It notes the recent progress, including the 21 February elections, which occurred in a largely peaceful manner and with an encouraging level of turnout, and the 25 February transfer of power to President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, as per the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism. The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen.
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> "The Security Council expresses concern at the recent deterioration in cooperation among political actors and the risks this poses to the transition. The Security Council reaffirms its resolution 2014 (2011), and calls upon all political actors in Yemen to remain committed to the political transition and constitutional order, and to play a constructive role in the process and reject violence.
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> "The Security Council notes that the second phase of the transition should focus on the holding of a conference for national dialogue, restructuring of the security forces, tackling the unauthorized possession of weapons outside the control of the State, passing legislation on transitional justice to support reconciliation, constitutional reform, electoral reform and the holding of general elections in 2014. The Security Council emphasizes the need for these political processes to be conducted in an inclusive manner involving the full participation of the different segments of Yemeni society, including the regions of the country, the major social groups and the full and effective participation of women.
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> "The Security Council emphasizes the importance of a well-planned and peaceful preparatory process for the conference for national dialogue, and therefore urges the quick formation by the Yemeni Government of an inclusive preparatory committee involving the major constituencies. In the context of a genuinely inclusive process, the Security Council reminds the Yemeni Government and other actors of the need to release those protesters arbitrarily detained during the crisis.
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> "The Security Council expresses its strong concern about intensified terrorist attacks, including by Al-Qaida, within Yemen. It condemns such terrorist attacks in the strongest terms and supports the efforts of the Yemeni Government to combat terrorism in compliance with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. It expresses deep condolences to the families of the victims in the March attacks in Abyan, southern Yemen.
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> "The Security Council notes the formidable economic and social challenges confronting Yemen, which have left many Yemenis in acute need of humanitarian assistance. It welcomes the expansion of the humanitarian response capacity by United Nations agencies and partners, while noting its concern that the 2012 humanitarian response plan is significantly underfunded, and urges renewed and sustained support by donors for the plan. The Security Council also urges all parties to facilitate full, safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian actors to reach people in need of humanitarian assistance.
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> "The Security Council notes with appreciation the planned 23 May Friends of Yemen ministerial meeting in Riyadh and calls for the international community to maintain its active support to help the Yemeni Government meet the forthcoming political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges. The Security Council looks forward to an action plan set out by the Yemeni authorities, in close

cooperation with all the parties in Yemen and in a spirit of dialogue, on how these challenges could be addressed with the support of the international community. They affirm their view that the Friends of Yemen have a particularly important role to play by bringing together the main international actors in a common endeavour to support Yemen's overall transitional plans during the next two years.

"The Security Council reiterates that all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses, including acts of violence, should be held accountable. The Security Council also notes with concern that children continue to be recruited and used by armed groups and certain elements of the military and calls for continued national efforts to discourage the use and recruitment of child soldiers.

"The Security Council reiterates its call to all parties to remain fully committed to the success of the transition, and welcomes the continued engagement of the good offices of the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser Jamal Benomar. It welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to dispatch a team of experts to monitor the implementation and provide advice to the parties in consultation with the Government of Yemen, and supports the intention of the United Nations to focus its political engagement through a small presence in Yemen of officials working closely alongside the United Nations country team in order to support Yemeni efforts to organize a national dialogue process that is inclusive, transparent and participatory, and will work, in coordination with partner missions, with the Yemeni Government to adopt transitional justice legislation, carry out constitutional reform and offer support up to and including the general elections in 2014. The Security Council remains closely engaged on the situation in Yemen and will continue to closely follow the next steps towards a peaceful political transition of power."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2012/8.

I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen.

Mr. Al-Sallal (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to extend my congratulations to Ambassador Sir Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for his competent and skilful management of the deliberations of the Security Council this month. I would also like to thank the Ambassador of Togo, who steered the Council's proceedings last month with great skill and efficiency.

The Security Council has just adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2012/8, on the situation in my country. In that regard, I should like to make the following comments.

My Government expresses its gratitude to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and, in particular, to King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of fraternal Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, as well as to the member States of the Security Council, especially the permanent members, and the donor community, for their efforts in helping us overcome the hardships we are currently experiencing. We would also like to express our gratitude to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his earnest endeavours and good offices, as well as to his Special Adviser Jamal Benomar and his team, in following up the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and implementation mechanism.

Since the signing of that initiative, my country has experienced a number of positive developments, including the establishment of a Government of national reconciliation and a military and security committee. Most important were the presidential elections held on 21 February, which enjoyed a high level of participation by the people of Yemen and brought to office His Excellency Mr. Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour as President of the Republic of Yemen.

The Government of national reconciliation continues to face serious challenges that hinder the implementation of its development and economic programmes, including the suffocating economic crisis stemming from our limited resources and the stagnation in economic activity since 2011. The people of Yemen still continue to suffer as a result of ongoing shortages of electricity and water. In that regard, we count on the international community — especially our brothers from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council — and look forward to the outcome of the ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of Yemen that will be held in Riyadh on 23 May.

Over the past year, the unstable political situation in Yemen and the terrorist attacks that we have experienced have had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation. According to United Nations statistics, the lives of 8 million Yemeni people are in jeopardy and they are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The number of refugees and internally displaced persons — including from the governorates of Abyan, Sadah, Lahij, Hajjah, Adan, Amran and Taizz — has risen to 500,000. Those people, who are experiencing a humanitarian crisis, are being hosted in 11 of our 22 governorates. In spite the efforts of the Government to shelter and provide them with the necessary services, our limited resources prevent us from alleviating their suffering. In spite of the hardships we face in our country, Yemen hosts almost 1 million refugees from Somalia and the Horn of Africa, who, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, continue to flow into Yemen.

Yemen is a partner of the international community in combating terrorism. We are also a country that has been affected by that scourge. My Government is committed to fighting terrorism as much as we can. At the same time, however, we count on the support of the international community to confront that challenge.

The President: There are no more names on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the delegation of the United Kingdom, to thank all the members of the Council, especially my colleagues the Permanent Representatives, their respective staff and the secretariat of the Council, for all the support they have given to us in the month of March. It has been a busy month, and one in which we rallied to consensus on several important issues on our agenda. We could not have done it without the hard work, support and positive contributions of every delegation and the representatives of the Secretariat, as well as the interpreters, meeting servicing staff and sound engineers. As we end our presidency, I know I speak on behalf of all Council members in wishing the United States delegation good luck in the month of April.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.